

JEAN ELIOT'S CHRONICLES OF CAPITAL SOCIETY DOINGS

(Continued from Page Fourteen.) of women, has a long and honorable record, and is one of the oldest of service organizations. Its object is to promote the welfare and contentment of the enlisted personnel of the two branches of the service. The Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines' Club, at 317 C street northwest, is a branch of the league, and is one of the oldest and most substantial of service clubs.

Speeding Preparations For Ball of the Nations.

Preparations are going on apace for the ball of the nations, which will be held at the Willard-Carew-Weoness, March 26, to be exact—at the Willard; and I'm beginning to think that the prettiest feature of the ball will be the pageant groups which are being arranged under the direction of Mrs. Walter Tuckerman. The nations of the allies and many of the neutrals will be represented and each group will have at its head some woman connected with the Diplomatic Corps.

Mrs. Cremer, for instance, will be in charge of the Dutch group; Mrs. Zaidvar is arranging the group of Salvador; Mrs. Nordvall, wife of the special commissioner of Sweden, is getting up the group of Swedish dancers; Princess Shiba is arranging the Roumanian group—and so on down the line. Society girls—many of the debutantes among 'em—young maidens and prominent Washington men will take part, and the groups will combine to open the ball in a beautiful and unique manner. The ball is for the benefit of Neighbor-

hood House, which last year raised \$8,000 at the amusement ball. Numerous designs have been submitted to the poster contest, which is being held in connection with the entertainment, and everyone with artistic talent is urged to send a sample of his work to Mrs. Charles J. Bell, 1120 Connecticut avenue. So far the best poster submitted is the one done by Mrs. Mayo, wife of Commander Mayo, U. S. A. Two prizes will be awarded, one \$20 and one \$10. A successful meeting to arrange the details of the ball was held on Friday afternoon at Mrs. Charles Frouk's residence.

That Mere Word "Abroad"

In the Social Register the name of Neika de Smirnov, who used to make her home with her aunt, Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth, has for some time been followed by the word "abroad." However, it is only since she has been back in this country that I have learned how many thrilling and tragic experiences are summed up in that word.

In the first place she isn't Neika de Smirnov any longer, but Mme. Moulkhanoff. No, I don't mean to imply for a moment that her marriage is a tragic experience—and her husband is a nephew of the former imperial Russian ambassador to the United States, George Bakmeteff. His parents, Colonel and Mrs. Moulkhanoff, are staying with M. and Mrs. Bakmeteff even now; and young Mme. Moulkhanoff has arrived in Washington to visit Mrs. Wadsworth

until she closes her Washington home for the summer. Quite early in the war Mme. Moulkhanoff, then Mlle de Smirnov, whose father was a Russian, went to Petrograd and became a nurse. And this, of course, is where the tragic adventures come in. She went all through the revolution and the early days of the Bolshevik reign of terror, leading a hole-and-corner existence, hiding in cellars to escape the half-mad soldiery; herding with refugees; selling her clothing and jewels to buy food and the food, which barely served to keep body and soul together, and starving all the while to help mitigate the miseries of those who were worse off than she. And this was a girl who had been brought up in the lap of luxury and whose every wish had been gratified before it was even uttered! The story of how Mme. Moulkhanoff finally got out of Russia reads like a fairy tale.

Cecilia May vom Rath May Be Home For Visit.

I heard a rumor recently that Cecilia May vom Rath, with her twin babies, was coming home shortly for a visit to her family, the Henry Mays. If this be true, it may be accepted as an omen that the war is really over, for her husband, Lieut. Wilhelm vom Rath, is a German army officer. However, a member of the May family told me that they had really no definite idea when she was coming, or if she was coming, so possibly the wish of Mme. vom Rath's friends in Washington is father to the thought that she is coming back. The rumor was passed along to me by some one who knows the whole May connection well.

There are so many prominent Washington girls who married Germans and Austrians before the central powers became involved in war with the United States that the question of their status when peace becomes a reality is a peculiarly interesting one. There's Constance Hoyt, for instance, who is now Mme. Ferdinand von Stumm and who has been in Germany throughout the war. There's Catherine Birney, who was married to Baron Wilhelm von Schoen, then secretary of the German embassy at Washington, not many months before relations between Germany and her native country were broken off, and went with him to Mexico. And there's Catherine Britton, now Princess Alfred zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurst, whose husband was an attaché of the Austria-Hungarian embassy at the time she married him. The last I heard of her she was in Switzerland, her husband being on the staff of the Austro-Hungarian legation at London, and it was there that her young son was born.

Many Others, But None Back Since Marriage.

Princess Margaret Boncompagni, formerly Margaret Draper; Mrs. Giuseppe Brambilla (Julia Meyer), and Mrs. Moreton Foley Gage (Frances Lippitt) are other girls with important Washington connections whom we are hoping to have back with us for a visit now that the war is over. Of course, they have had no "entangling alliances" with the enemy, to make their return in war time impossible; but conditions have not been favorable to traveling, and—well, anyway, none of them have been back since they were married.

Miss Lippitt, indeed, was married abroad to Brigadier General Gage, he going back to the front shortly after the wedding and she resuming the Red Cross work for which she first went overseas. This was in October, 1918, and the news of this interesting pair, which has filtered through to Washington since then, has been rather scanty. However, Washington knows General Gage quite well, as he was stationed here as military attaché of the British embassy some years ago, and will be heartily glad to welcome him and his wife when they finally see their way clear to coming back here for a visit. When Colonel Gage's first wife was living when he was in this country before. The present Mrs. Gage is the daughter of former Senator Henry F. Lippitt of Rhode Island.

Transferred to Rome Shortly After Wedding.

About the time of his marriage to Julia Meyer, Chevalier Brambilla, who had been counselor of the Italian embassy at Washington, was transferred to a post in the foreign office at Rome. He took his bride with him when he set sail and neither of them has been back since. Her mother, Mrs. George von Lengerke Meyer, has been spending the winter with her daughter in Rome.

Mrs. William F. Draper is also in Rome. She has spent the greater part of her time there since her daughter's marriage to Prince Andrea Boncompagni-Ludovisi, the scion of an ancient and important house which has given three popes to the Church of Rome and played an important part in the history of Italy, and the big Draper house in K street has been boarded up. There was some talk of Mrs. Draper and her daughter coming home for a visit last autumn, but they put it off on account of the discomfort of traveling. Mrs. Christopher P. Smith (Dorothy Shuey), whose husband was at



MRS. CHARLES PERLEGER
And her interesting little family. She is the wife of the commissioner of the Czech-Slovak republic.

one time attached to the Norwegian legation in Washington, is another Washington girl who has been abroad ever since her wedding. Her mother, Mrs. Theodore Shuey, has been hoping for a visit from her or has been talking of going to Christiania to stay with her daughter; and now that an ocean crossing is less perilous they may put one or another of these plans into execution.

Eugenia Holcombe Having Splendid Time in Texas.

Eugenia Holcombe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Walter Holcombe, who is visiting Mrs. Short Adam Willis in Texas, is having such a good time that she quite refuses to set any date for her homecoming. And Mrs. Willis may be depended upon to keep her as long as possible, as she lives alone on her big ranch and, moreover, is very fond of Miss Holcombe. Olive Willis, now Mrs. Lafayette Martin, with her husband and her two kiddies, a boy two months old and a little girl two years, live on the next ranch.

Miss Holcombe apparently spends most of her time on horseback, and when last her mother heard from her was just starting off on a cattle round-up. By way of contrast she and Mrs. Willis recently motored to Galveston, where they spent several days with the latter's sister, Mrs. Hawley, and had a continuous round of dinner parties, luncheons, teas and balls given in their honor.

There's one consolation about not owning any valuable jewels—one is spared a good deal of trouble in taking care of them. This was borne in upon me the other day when I chanced to glance over the "lost" ads and read that Mrs. George Barman, wife of the major general commandant of the Marine Corps, had lost a gold vanity bag elaborately set with diamonds; that a pearl brooch

was missing and should be returned to the British embassy, and that Mrs. Mackay-Smith was offering a large reward for the return of a diamond and platinum pin worth nearly \$1,000. The same day some one who lives at 2400 Sixteenth street was advertising the loss of a Russian sable scarf—quite a record, isn't it?

Moreover, Washington has quite an imposing list of jewel robberies. During a fire at the Willard several months ago Mrs. Nathan Scott had most of her jewelry—and she had some very valuable things—taken out of her trunk; and a few weeks later Mme. Grouitch, wife of the Serbian minister, who was then living at the Shoreham, was robbed of \$10,000 worth of diamonds.

The announcement of the appointment of three additional members of Mrs. Medill McCormick's National Republican Women's Executive Committee has roused considerable interest here, because, although each one is supposed to represent some fairly distant section of the country, all three have spent much time in Washington. Mrs. John G. South, for instance, who represents Kentucky, is a daughter of former Governor and later Senator—Bradley, who died a few years ago as a member of the Upper House. Mrs. South, while she has never lived in Washington, has been here a good deal and has many friends here. Mrs. Thomas H. Carter is officially "of Montana," but she is the widow of former Senator Carter, of Montana, and has been for years closely identified with Washington—especially prominent in all the charitable and educational undertakings of the Roman Catholic Church here.

Perhaps Miss Maude Wetmore's name attracted most attention. For Miss Wetmore lived here so long during her father's long service in the senate as to be in Washington's mind completely identified with Washington, with Red Cross work, with civic

improvement in various lines—and with anti-suffrage. Curious, eh? She had Mrs. James W. Wadsworth's backing for a place on the committee.

And whether one agrees with her on the suffrage proposition or not, one must admit that Miss Wetmore should be a valuable addition to Mrs. McCormick's committee. Moreover, such an appointment may clear the air a bit for the perfectly good Republican women who are not interested in suffrage—who are "agin' it"—and who may have had rather the feeling that the committee must be a hot-bed of suffrage, because Mrs. McCormick, who has been for years an active suffragist, is at its head.

Indeed, one of Mrs. McCormick's chief troubles—and being the head of a national women's committee is a man-sized job—has been the difficulty of making people realize that the organization is purely a party organization with the sole purpose of making the Republican party win at the polls next election; and that the women who are placed there have been selected without regard to their other activities simply because they are good Republicans and willing to work for the party.

For the last year or two Mrs. McCormick has held no office in the National Woman's Suffrage Association, and while it is perfectly true that a great many of the women who come to the committee's headquarters are suffragists—as it is equally true that the Republican party has declared itself for suffrage as a party—still suffrage is not an issue at Mrs. McCormick's office, and she is holding her position, not as a suffragist, but as a Republican.

In the same way there is Mrs. Raymond Robbins, who is on the committee as member-at-large. There is a disposition to cavil at the fact that she is head of the Woman's Trade Union League—in her private capacity—and to assume that she is on the committee as representing that organization. I believe that some such statement has even gotten into print. Such a statement would probably be resented equally by the National Republican Women's Executive Committee, and by the Woman's Trade Union League—by the one because organizations are not represented on it, as organizations, by the other because it certainly has not selected its president as its representative on the committee.

It is perfectly true that Mrs. Robbins, having for years been identified with the movement for trade unions among women, and having made a special study of working conditions for women, and of legislation affecting them, would probably be listened to with especial respect, if the question of what the working women of the country want was under consideration. But she is no more the official representative of the Woman's Trade Union League on the Republican Women's National Executive Committee than Mrs. McCormick is the representative there of the National Suffrage Association.

There are many Republican women whose co-operation Mrs. McCormick is anxious to obtain. Mrs. Knox and Mrs. Wadsworth, for example, who would, undoubtedly, be willing to work for the success of the Republican party, however loath they might be to identify themselves with a movement run by and in the interests of suffrage. I don't know where Mrs. Knox stands, but she would be likely to be an anti- and everybody knows Mrs. Wadsworth's feelings in the matter and—well, any way, you can perfectly well see why Mrs. McCormick is anxious to have the true status of affairs understood.

One woman who is actively interested in the work of the committee is Mrs. Nicholas Longworth. She and Mrs. McCormick are intimate friends, have been from girlhood, and they are hand and glove in this work for the party to which their husbands belong. Indeed, the chairman of the

committee finds Mrs. Longworth one of her ablest lieutenants. She has always been interested in public affairs, and there are those who say that there is more politics played up at the Longworth home, more really vital political discussion over the intimate little dinners that are the chosen form of entertaining with the Longworths, than anywhere in Washington—that, in fact, there is developing in the home of T. R.'s daughter a small and select but very influential political salon.

Fondly yours,
JEAN ELIOT.

WANTS PATRIOTISM SCHOOL AS MEMORIAL TO T. R.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University, in a letter to the Roosevelt Permanent Memorial National Training School of Patriotism (or of Citizenship), as the most fitting memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. The object of such an institution would

be the training of teachers of government and politics, from grade school teachers to college professors. "Such an institution," the letter says, "would not rival any of the present colleges or normal schools. Presumably students or graduates from other institutions would come there for special training. If the buildings were limited, as they might perfectly well be, to the lecture halls and libraries, a large part of the fund could become an endowment for salaries and fellowships."

WOMAN USES YARDSTICK TO FIRE FATAL SHOT

MARYSVILLE, Pa., March 14.—Using a yardstick to push the trigger of a shotgun, Mrs. Mary K. Bowman Ford committed suicide at her home in Toboyne township. Mrs. Ford's husband died during the recent influenza epidemic, and she had been melancholy ever since, and this is believed to have prompted her act. Death is believed to have been instantaneous.



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